



March 2006

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP HELD TO HELP DETERMINE DESIGN ASPECTS FOR DISTRICT 3 FLAGSHIP LIBRARY

What should the District 3 Flagship Library look like? How should it be oriented in relation to University Avenue, and how does the community feel about the proposed scale of the project? These were among the issues that were the topic of a community-wide forum I sponsored on Saturday morning, March 4, 2006, on the land-use and design aspects of the proposed library. Approximately 40 people attended the forum which was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The input of the community is critical as we move into the design phase of planning for the new library. I wanted to hear ideas directly from the citizens about what design characteristics are most important to them.

In September 2005, the District 3 Flagship Library Task Force recommended that the city enter negotiations with KDL Properties to build the library as part of a development planned at 31st Street and University Avenue, to include the former Drowsie Maggie's site. This action was taken after the original proposal selected by the task force fell through.

Community input will be considered as the concepts of the proposal are crafted into an agreement between the developer and the city. Some of the issues explored at the forum were the feasibility of the proposed site, architectural characteristics, how the incorporation of housing might impact the design, as well as the question of whether retail services should be integrated with the public areas of the library.

The input received at the forum will help the developer refine his project and will help the Redevelopment Agency define the scope of the agreement with the developer.

SAVE THE DATE: NORTH PARK TOWN HALL MEETING

Date: Saturday, April 8, 2006

Time: 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Location: North Park Theatre, 2891 University Avenue

On March 1, 2006, I joined with University Heights community leaders to protest the illegal activity that has transpired over the last year at the Welcome Inn. Both managers and tenants of the motel were recent targets of a San Diego Police Department sting.

The purpose of this press conference was to take a stand against the blatant disregard of this community's well-being and to let the property owners know that we mean business and won't allow this situation to continue. At the press conference I called upon the owners of the Welcome Inn to take immediate action to remedy the problems at the site.

The Welcome Inn is a 24-unit motel located at 1550 Washington Street. With

ATKINS, COMMUNITY HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE AT WELCOME INN



Councilmember Atkins joined community members at a press conference calling for an end to problems at the Welcome Inn.

a long, documented history of drug and prostitution-related activities, it has been deemed the most troublesome motel property in the San Diego Police Department's

Western Division. Illegal activity at the motel has escalated over the last three years and has reached unacceptable levels—60 arrests last year alone—forcing neighboring residents to take action.

The community has been directly impacted by spill-over activity from the motel. Residents have been forced to live with middle-of-the-night fights, prostitute solicitation, and public urination on private property. In addition to the multiple arrests and calls for police service at the motel, numerous code violations have been identified. Our message is clear and our concerns are legitimate: We won't back down until this neighborhood is safe again!

NEW PARKING GARAGE OPENS IN NORTH PARK



A crowd of local business owners, community leaders, residents and media turned out for the dedication ceremony.



Councilmember Atkins welcomed the crowd.



Project developer Bud Fisher joined Councilmember Atkins in thanking everyone associated with the project who helped bring it to fruition.



The beautifully designed garage offers wide, easily accessible covered parking spots (above) and rooftop parking (below) with a stunning 360-degree view of the region.



I was proud to join with the North Park community on February 15th to celebrate the grand opening of the North Park Parking Garage in the heart of the North Park neighborhood. The \$14.5 million project represents another step in the continued revitalization of the historic North Park community.

The five-level public parking garage offers 388 parking spaces and 14,000 square feet of retail space designed to accommodate the increasing number of visitors and vehicles to the newly renovated North Park Theatre and the revitalized business and cultural district along University Avenue.

The project was made possible through a collaborative effort of the Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Diego (Community and Economic Development Department), private developer Arnold G. "Bud" Fisher and local community members. The Redevelopment Agency held a series of community meetings to design the parking structure and the final design is a product of that effort.



The parking garage also incorporates the community's love for arts and culture that is in keeping with the North Park neighborhood. Large display panels are positioned along the sides of the garage and will feature artwork from local artists that will be selected by community representatives.

The North Park Parking Garage represents an excellent example of project design that truly takes the recommendations and suggestions of the community into account. This project, designed entirely by the community, addresses an important need, but also symbolizes the diverse and eclectic North Park neighborhood through the incorporation of an artistic component. This garage will serve the community well for many years to come.

The rates for the parking garage are as follows:

- \$0.50 Every 30 min
- \$5.00 All day
- \$3.00 After 5pm
- \$5.00 Events
- \$45.00 Monthly-Daytime 6am to 6pm (7) days/week
- \$45.00 Monthly-Nighttime 5pm to 8am (7) days/week
- \$75.00 Monthly-24 Hours



The roof of the garage offers westward views to the distant ocean (above) and nearby North Park Theatre (below).



The completion of the parking garage is the latest in a series of redevelopment projects changing the face of North Park. Visible from the room of the garage is the La Boheme mixed-use residential and commercial project, currently under construction on 30th Street between University and Lincoln avenues.



(L to R) Tom Romstad of the City of San Diego Redevelopment Division of the Community and Economic Development Department, North Park Main Street Executive Director Jeannie Tidy, Councilmember Atkins and North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee Chair Roger Lewis celebrate the dedication of the parking garage.

GET ON BOARD WITH THE MTS AND COCA-COLA SCHOLARSHIP

WINNERS TO RECEIVE A LAPTOP COMPUTER

Entries are now being accepted for the fourth annual Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and Coca-Cola scholarship. Twenty-eight high school seniors will win a laptop computer for writing an essay about "120 Years of Public Transit in San Diego."

Application forms are available on-line on the MTS website at www.sdcommute.com, the San Diego County Office of Education website at www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us, at The Transit

Store at 1st and Broadway in downtown San Diego, or at high school career centers.

The application deadline is on Monday, April 14, 2006.

The application form contains the official rules and details.



Work is coming to a close on the Adams Elementary Safe Routes to School project in Normal Heights.

The \$480,000 infrastructure improvement project aims to create improved pedestrian connections at seven intersections adjacent to the Adams Elementary School, Adams Recreation Center and ball field and the Normal Heights Community Center bounded by Adams Avenue, 35th Street, Madison Avenue and Hawley Boulevard.

The project includes ladder-shaped crosswalks at seven intersections, new

ADAMS ELEMENTARY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS MOVING FORWARD



signage, pedestrian ramps and pedestrian intersection pop-outs to reduce the crossing distance at two intersections

(Hawley Boulevard at both School Street and Madison Avenue). Work should be completed by the end of March.

Please join me and members of the Normal Heights community for a dedication of the Adams Safe Routes to School project on Thursday, March 30, 2006, at 8:45 a.m. at the intersection of Hawley Boulevard and School Street.

The City Council's new Budget & Finance Committee, which I chair, continues to lay the groundwork for a stronger system of council oversight of the city's financial functions.

Our two February meetings introduced new procedures for maximizing the benefits of our new Independent Budget Analyst's Office and rolled out a calendar for reviewing and passing the city's fiscal year 2006-07 budget, which goes into effect July 1, 2006.

This year's budget calendar is moved up a month to allow time for careful consideration of our options and to allow for the potential for a mayoral veto, which in turn can be overridden by the council.

During February, the committee also heard the first of what will be monthly reports from the city's internal auditor and comptroller, John Torrell. It is our hope that timely, informative reporting of the status of the city's year-to-date revenues and expenditures will heighten policy-makers' control over the city's spending.

COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE NEWS

Five public hearings will be held on the budget on the following dates:

- Wednesday, April 19: General public comment; Council Chambers, 202 C Street, 12th floor; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 26: General public comment; community location to be announced; 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 3: Overview and public comment on selected departments including Parks and Recreation, Library, Community and Economic Development; Council Chambers, 202 C Street, 12th floor; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 4: Overview and public comment on selected departments including Public Safety, TOT/ Special Promotions, other departments as requested; Council Chambers, 202 C Street, 12th floor; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 5: Unfinished overview and public comment from previous two days' hearings; Council Chambers, 202 C Street, 12th Floor; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

HOUSE OF PUERTO RICO OPENS IN BALBOA PARK

On Saturday, February 4, I had the honor of speaking before close to 400 people at the dedication of the House of Puerto Rico cottage in Balboa Park. I was pleased to be able to present a City Council resolution proclaiming the day as "House of Puerto Rico Day" in the City of San Diego.

The cottage is part of the House of Pacific Relations, a cluster of almost 20 cottages in the Palisades area of the park, south of the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, that houses organizations representing different nations from throughout the world.

After seven years of planning, development and finally construction, the dream of the members of the House of Puerto Rico was realized with a patriotic ceremony and reception at the cottage. Those in attendance were given a tour of the cottage, which includes displays designed to educate the San Diego community and visitors about the culture and history of Puerto Rico.

(right) Councilmember Atkins addresses the crowd; (below) A military honor guard opens the proceedings.



(below) Close to 400 people attended the event.

(below right) Councilmember Atkins presents a City Council resolution proclaiming "House of Puerto Rico Day" to House of Puerto Rico board president Rosario Camacho.



Anticipation (left) ... then jubilation (right) as the ribbon is cut to formally open the House of Puerto Rico.



COMMUNITY ART PROJECT PLANNED FOR SOUTH PARK

The South Park Action Council (SPAC) is organizing a community art project for the new utility boxes throughout the business district of South Park. There are approximately 50 assorted utility boxes along Fern and 30th streets and crossing Juniper, Beech and Cedar streets.

I was pleased to be able to allocate \$3,000 in Third District Community Development Block Grant funds to this project.

SPAC is seeking local artists to use the color palate of South Park to create unique designs that will preserve the integrity and foster the uniqueness of South Park. Interested artists may contact Leslie Kilpatrick of SPAC at Leslie@willisallen.com.

COMMUNITY INPUT SOUGHT FOR EMERALD OIL SITE IN KENSINGTON

The Emerald Oil property at 4142 Adams Avenue in Kensington is in escrow and the prospective owner, Allard Jansen, is actively seeking community input as to what type of development will best fit the community.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Mr. Jansen at (858) 793-9091 x203.



HOPELINE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The city's Family Justice Center (FJC) has teamed up with Verizon Wireless to provide victims of domestic violence another line of safety. Since this program began, \$1,293.75 has been raised. Through Verizon's HopeLine program, the primary focus is put on using wireless services to work to combat domestic violence. Wireless phones and equipment are collected from consumers and refurbished or recycled with all proceeds benefiting domestic violence victims and advocacy organizations. The Family Justice Center is one of the chosen organizations that receive these phones. Thanks to Verizon, the FJC is able to provide victims with this service.

If you, your friends or family have cell phones they'd like to donate, please drop them off at the front desk of the 2nd floor on 707 Broadway in Downtown San Diego. The San Diego Fire-Rescue and Police Departments are also doing their part by collecting used phones and accessories donated by the public. Collection boxes are available at city fire and police stations through April 15, 2006.



Verizon will then refurbish and resell the equipment with all proceeds going to the Family Justice Center.

HopeLine is a collaborative project between the Family Justice Center, Verizon Wireless, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, and the San Diego Police Department.

REPORT THOSE STREET LIGHTS THAT ARE BURNED OUT

Over the last few months I have received numerous phone calls and e-mails regarding street lights that are out in the district. I have always encouraged my constituents to continue to be the "eyes and ears" of the community, so if you see lights out in your neighborhood, call my office or let the city know as soon as possible.

Please call the City of San Diego Street Division line at (619) 527-7500 or go to the City of San Diego's website www.sandiego.gov and click "request a street repair" on the "City Government Links" to the left of the homepage. You can also continue calling my office at (619) 236-6633 to report lights that are out.

Thank you in advance for your help to get these locations reported so the city can follow up with repairs!

GOLDEN HILL TO HOLD COMMUNITY PLANNING EVENT MARCH 18

In order to better serve the needs of the community, the Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation is inviting residents to come together for some fun and creativity to discuss a future vision for Golden Hill. Large and small group discussions will focus on enhancing the pedestrian experience, maintaining historic integrity, stepping up neighborhood beautification efforts, fostering business district improvements, promoting and producing community events and encouraging neighborhood involvement.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Golden Hill Recreation Center gymnasium. I will be appearing at the event in the morning along with Eighth District Councilmember Ben Hueso. Please R.S.V.P. to Mary McLellan at (619) 696-9992.

TALMADGE FIRE SAFETY PLAN COMING TO COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Kathy Finn of the Talmadge Fire Safe Council, in collaboration with Deputy Fire Marshall Eddie Villavicencio, will be making an informational presentation on the Talmadge Community Wildfire Protection Plan to the Natural Resources & Culture Committee on April 5, 2006, at 2 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Committee Room of the City Administration Building, 202 C Street, 12th floor. The public is invited to attend.

CITY HEIGHTS TREE TRIMMING UPDATE

Tree trimming within City Heights began on Monday, February 13, 2006, and is scheduled to be completed by May 12, 2006. We originally announced that City Heights would be serviced in January, however, due to unforeseen circumstances and the overabundance of trees that need care throughout the city, there has been a delay to the original schedule.

If you would like to report a tree that is in need of trimming, please let me know via email: toniatkins@sandiego.gov or by calling my office at (619) 236-6633.



PHOTO GALLERY



(above) Councilmember Atkins joins Municipal Employees Association members at their recent blood drive.



(left) Councilmember Atkins received a special award from the national Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund for her service to the city as Deputy Mayor, and (right) took a moment to thank the Victory Fund for their continued work on behalf of the LGBT community.



(above) Councilmember Atkins stopped by the February 15th Human Relations Commission meeting to honor outgoing board member Karen Marshall (above right) with a special day in her honor.



(above) Councilmember Atkins stopped by the Normal Heights Planning Committee meeting to present community leader Jim Baross with a City Council resolution thanking him for his 35 years of service with the City of San Diego. Pictured with Jim and Toni are his wife, Julie Hocking (board secretary of the Normal Heights Planning Committee), and their son, J.J. Baross.



(above) Councilmember Atkins stopped by KNBS 7/39 the morning of February 3rd to tout "National Wear Red Day" to raise awareness for the American Heart Association.



Councilmember Atkins made two trips to the Museum of Man recently to honor Shirley Phillips (above) with a City Council resolution and to commend the Klee Wyk Auxiliary of the museum (represented at right by the auxiliary's Founding President Ginger Wallace). Flanking Atkins and the honorees in both photos are Museum of Man Executive Director Dr. Mari Lyn Salvador (on the left) and Board President Mary Dawe (on the right).



NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN HILLCREST

Two projects that I contributed Development Impact Fees toward are moving forward. The installation of a pedestrian pop-out at the intersection of University Avenue and Front Street is moving into the design phase, as is a project to add additional parking spaces on the first block of Normal Street just north of University Avenue.

I am also working with community leaders from University Heights to replace bollards on the south end of the Vermont Street Pedestrian Bridge. I was able to identify \$5,000 of city funds toward the project. The community is currently working to finalize concept plans and a budget and will present their ideas shortly.

DISTRICT THREE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MONTHLY DISTRICT THREE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Balboa Park Committee

Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (Off Presidents Way west of Park Blvd.)

Meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:00pm

Contact: Darlene Davies, chair: ddavies@mail.sdsu.edu

City Heights Planning Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Avenue

Meets the first Monday of the Month, 6:30pm

Contact: Jim Varnadore, Chair, 619/280-3910.

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)

Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, Golden Hill

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Patricia Shields, Chair, (619) 295-1374.

Greater North Park Community Planning Committee

North Park Christian Fellowship, Second Floor, 2901 North Park Way

Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: John McGaughy, Chair, (619) 574-1135, or jstewardstudios@aol.com

Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group

Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: Fred Lindahl, Chair, 619/287-3157.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

4649 Hawley Boulevard

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm

Contact: Judy Elliot, Chair, 619/563-5473.

Uptown Planners

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm

Contact: Leo Wilson, Chair, 619/574-0109.

How To Contact Us

Councilmember Toni Atkins

202 C Street, MS #10A

San Diego, CA 92101

Telephone: (619) 236-6633

Fax: (619) 595-1481

Email: ToniAtkins@sandiego.gov

MONTHLY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Adams Avenue Business Association

4649 Hawley Boulevard

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30am

Contact: 619/282-7329

City Heights Business Association

Board meetings: second Wednesday of every month at 8am at the Metro Career Center Community Room, 3910 University Avenue.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5588, San Diego, CA 92165

Phone: 619/516-2282

El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement Association

3727 El Cajon Boulevard

Meets the second Thursday of the month, 11:30am

Contact: 619/283-3608

Hillcrest Association

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District

Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 5:00pm

Contact: 619/299-3330.

North Park Main Street

3076 University Avenue

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:00am

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS

Rick Castro (City Heights East) -- 619/515-2733

Rick Edgil (Hillcrest, North Park, University Heights) -- 619/291-1729

Richard Fox (Normal Heights, Kensington/Talmadge) -- 619/531-2815

Gary Gonzales (Golden Hill, South Park) -- 619/744-9500

Pat Norris (Fairmount Park) -- 619/531-1515

Jim Tulumello (City Heights West) -- 619/516-3009

MONTHLY REDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

City Heights Project Area Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Ave.

Meets the second Monday of the month, 6pm

Contact: Karen Bucey, Chair, 619/957-5818.

North Park Project Area Committee

California Nat'l Bank, 3180 University Ave., 2nd Floor

Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm

Contact: Roger Lewis, Chair, at 619/881-8977, or the city staff member at 619/533-5284.

District Three Staff

Denise Price, Chief of Staff.

George Biagi, Director of Communications; LGBT community liaison; HIV/AIDS issues; Community Development Block Grants; Chargers/Qualcomm Stadium; newsletter; webpage.

April Chesebro, Council Representative to Kensington, Talmadge, South Park, Golden Hill and University Heights; African-American community liaison; homeless issues.

Daisy Gordon Crompton, Committee Consultant to the Committee on Budget and Finance; housing issues.

Stephen Hill, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Balboa Park; environment, libraries, arts and culture, land use citywide; MSCP, Transit Occupancy Tax, water issues, military/veterans issues.

Pam Ison, Council Representative to City Heights; liaison to Asian/Pacific Islander community; City Heights redevelopment; school liaison and education issues; women's, youth, and Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) issues.

Cheli Mohamed, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Atkins and Chief of Staff Denise Price.

Monica Pelaez, Council Representative to North Park; liaison to the Latino community; Council docket coordinator; Police Department liaison and public safety issues; Fire and Life Safety Services liaison; senior issues.

Jeffery Tom, Council Representative to Uptown, Hillcrest and Normal Heights; infrastructure, citywide business issues, energy, telecommunications, Metropolitan Transit System, SANDAG transportation, BID Council.

District Three Community/Neighborhood Meetings

City Heights

Azalea Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2596 Violet Street at 6:30pm. Contact: info@azaleapark.org

Cherokee Point Neighborhood Association: Meets the fourth Wednesday at 6:30pm, Cherokee Point Elementary School, 3735 38th Street. Contact: 619/285-1611.

City Heights Community Development Corporation: Meets the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at 4283 El Cajon Boulevard. 619/584-1535.

Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 3850 Westgate Place at 6:30pm. Contact: FairmountPark92105@yahoo.com.

San Diego Model School Development Agency: Meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:00am at the Metro Career Center, 3910 University Avenue. For more information call Robin Allen at 619/578-7537, or check out www.sdmodelschool.net.

South Castle Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the Buddhist Temple, 3322 Central Avenue. For more information, contact Laurie Carlock at (619) 284-3118.

Swan Canyon: Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 3120 Euclid Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Contact Becky at rebecca@bairfinancial.com.

Teralta West Neighborhood Alliance: Meets every first and third Thursday of the month at 4286 Marlborough Street at 6:30pm. Contact: 619/281-3551.

Golden Hill

Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC): Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the Balboa Park Golf Course Clubhouse. Contact: 619/696-9992.

Kensington

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association: Meets every third Wednesday at the Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, beginning at 7pm. (dinner for a reasonable price is served prior)

Normal Heights

Normal Heights Cultural Council: Meets the third Thursday of each month from 6:00pm-7:30pm at 4649 Hawley Boulevard.

North Park

Altadena Neighborhood Association: Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at Santos Coffee at Thorn and 32nd streets. Contact: 619/280-6662.

Burlingame Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm at different locations each month. Contact: hsullivan@sandi.net

North Park Community Association: Meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6-8pm at the North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho Street.

South Park

The South Park Action Council: Meetings are held bi-weekly on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. and last one hour. For information, e-mail Co-Chairs: Samantha Keenan at samkeen@cox.net or Connie McDonough at conniemcdonough@cox.net.

Talmadge

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association (see Kensington)

The Talmadge Community Council (TCC): Meets every third Tuesday at 4725 Lucille Drive beginning at 6:30pm.

University Heights

The University Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC): Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the CDC office located at 4452 Park Blvd, Suite 104, at 6:30pm.

The University Heights Crime Watch and Neighborhood Association: Meets on the first Thursday of the month at Alice Birney School Auditorium, 4345 Campus Avenue. Crime Watch at 6:30pm; UHNA at 7:00pm

How To Contact Us

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